Recommendations of TRAI on FM radio

*194. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: MS. SUSHILATIRIYA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

whether FM radio has grown rapidly in our country;

whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in a communication to the Government has recommended several steps to be taken to achieve a sustained growth in FM radio;

if so, the other major recommendations of TRAI regarding FM radio; and

the reaction of the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. Permission has been granted for operationalization of 266 FM radio stations under Phase-I and Phase-II of the Policy on Expansion of FM radio through private agencies. Out of this, 205 are presently operational and the remaining 61 are likely to be operationalised shortly. Besides, 170 All India Radio FM transmitters are also operational at present.

(b) and (c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted their recommendations on issues relating to Phase HI of FM radio broadcasting through private agencies to the Government on 22.02.2008. The recommendations, *inter-alia,* include allowing additional channels in the same city, allowing broadcasting of news and current affairs with certain conditions, changing geographical basis for allotment of FM channels from city to district, enhancing FDI limit, relaxation of fee structure for North-East and J&K, allowing netowrking of FM radio programmes across entities etc.

(d) The recommendations of the TRAI are being examined by the Government.

Commercial operations by SEZs

*195. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

the details of the SEZs approved so far;

the details of SEZs which have started developing infrastructure, State-wise;

the details of SEZs which have started commercial operations; and

the details of employment in each SEZ, State-wise classification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Under the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act, 2005, 439 formal approvals have been granted out of which 202 SEZs have been notified.

In 124 notified SEZs, infrastructure and other activities have commenced. The details of State-wise investments made in the SEZs are annexed.

80 SEZs have commenced commercial operations.

As on 31st December, 2007, total incremental employment in all SEZs is 1,46,128. State-wise details are enclosed as Statement.